

VC-Strip[™] Family User Manual





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Safety information



WARNING!

Read the safety precautions in this section before installing, powering, operating or servicing this product.

The following symbols are used to identify important safety information on the product and in this document:



Warning! Safety hazard. Risk of severe injury or death.



Warning!
Hazardous
voltage. Risk
of severe or
lethal electric
shock.



Warning! Fire hazard.



Warning!
Refer to
manual before
installing,
operating or
servicing.



Warning!

 Read this user manual before installing and operating the Martin VC-Strip™ and keep this manual for future reference.



- Follow the safety precautions given in this user manual and in the manuals of all the devices you
 connect to it. Observe all warnings given in manuals and printed on devices. Make sure that
 everyone who is involved in working on or using the VC-Strip has read and understood these
 safety precautions and warnings.
- Install, connect, operate and service devices only as described in this manual and connected devices' manuals and only in accordance with local laws and regulations. All Martin™ manuals are supplied with devices and are also available for download from www.martin.com.
- The VC-Strip is not for household use. It presents risks of severe injury or death due to fire and burn hazards, electric shock and falls. It must be installed by qualified technicians only.
- The VC-Strip does not have user-serviceable parts. Refer any operation not described in this
 manual to Martin™ or its authorized service agents.
- The VC-Strip is designed to integrate with other Martin™ devices in a video display installation.

VC-Strip modules are considered as components that will be installed into final equipment. It must be reconfirmed that the final equipment still meets applicable EMC (electromagnetic compatibility) standards.

If you have any questions about how to operate the VC-Strip safely, please contact your Martin™ supplier or call the Martin™ 24-hour service hotline on +45 8740 0000, or in the USA on 1-888-tech-180.



PROTECTION FROM ELECTRIC SHOCK

- Read and respect the directions given in the user manuals of all the devices that you intend to connect to the VC-Strip, particularly the instructions, warnings and limits that apply to:
 - system layout,
 - connections to other devices,
 - specified cables,
 - maximum cable lengths, and
 - maximum number of devices that can be connected.

- Use only the cables specified by Martin[™] for the devices concerned to interconnect them. If the specified
 cables are not long enough for an intended cable run, consult Martin[™] for assistance in finding or
 creating a safe alternative cable
- Do not allow the total length of the cables used in a linked chain of VC-Strip modules to exceed 50 m (164 ft.) from the 48 VDC power source (Martin P3 PowerPort 1500™, Martin Tripix Power IP66™ or other external PSU) to the last VC-Strip at the end of the chain.
- Do not exceed the maximum safe limits given in the tables below. The figures allow for cable in a chain with a total hybrid cable length of 50 m (164 ft.).
 - If you supply VC-Strip modules with DC power from an output on a **Martin P3 PowerPort 1500™**, do not connect more than one linked chain of VC-Strips to one DC power output, and respect the limits given in Table 1 below:

Type of VC-Strip module in chain	Maximum permitted number of modules in one chain
VC-Strip 32x1 15	32
VC-Strip 16x1 15	63
VC-Strip 16x1 25	45
VC-Strip 8x1 25	63
VC-Strip 16x1 30	45
VC-Strip 8x1 30	63
VC-Strip 8x1 60	63
VC-Strip 4x1 60	63

Table 1: Maximum number of VC-Strip modules per P3 PowerPort 1500™ output

- If you supply VC-Strip modules with DC power from a **Martin Tripix Power IP66™**, do not connect more than one linked chain of VC-Strips to the DC power output, and respect the limits given in Table 2 below.

Type of VC-Strip module in chain	Maximum permitted number of modules in one chain
VC-Strip 32x1 15	30
VC-Strip 16x1 15	60
VC-Strip 16x1 25	30
VC-Strip 8x1 25	60
VC-Strip 16x1 30	30
VC-Strip 8x1 30	60
VC-Strip 8x1 60	60
VC-Strip 4x1 60	60

Table 2: Maximum number of VC-Strip modules per Tripix Power IP66™

- If you supply a chain of VC-Strip modules with DC power from a generic 48 VDC external PSU (power supply unit), do not exceed the maximum permitted number of modules that you can connect in one chain as given in Table 3 below. At the same time, do not create a chain that will exceed the maximum power rating of the PSU output used to supply that chain with power (to find the power consumption of the chain, multiply the number of modules in the chain with the wattage of each module as given in Table 3).

Each time you reach (a) the maximum permitted number of modules in one chain, or (b) the PSU output's maximum power rating – *whichever you reach first* – you must create a new chain of modules that is connected to a new 48 VDC power output.

Type of VC-Strip module in chain	Maximum permitted number of modules in one chain	Wattage per VC-Strip module
VC-Strip 32x1 15	45	8 W
VC-Strip 16x1 15	63	4 W
VC-Strip 16x1 25	45	8 W
VC-Strip 8x1 25	63	4 W
VC-Strip 16x1 30	45	8 W
VC-Strip 8x1 30	63	4 W
VC-Strip 8x1 60	63	4 W
VC-Strip 4x1 60	63	2 W

Table 3: Maximum number of VC-Strip modules per 48 VDC external PSU

- If you supply a chain of VC-Strip modules with DC power from a generic 48 VDC external PSU and the
 DC output used does not have constant overcurrent protection that limits current to 8 A, install an inline
 fuseholder with a 7.5 A or 8 A fuse on the circuit that you connect to that DC output.
- Provide a means of locking out AC mains power that allows power to the installation to be shut down and made impossible to reapply, even accidentally, during work on the installation.
- Shut down power to the installation during service and when it is not in use.
- Before applying power to the installation, check that all power distribution equipment and cables are in perfect condition and rated for the current requirements of all connected devices.
- Isolate the installation from power immediately if any product, power cable or power plug is in any way damaged, defective or wet, or if it shows signs of overheating.
- Do not expose the VC-Strip to rain or moisture.



PROTECTION FROM BURNS AND FIRE

- The VC-Strip is cooled by convection. Provide free airflow and a minimum clearance of 10 mm (0.4 in.)
 around modules. Monitor the VC-Strip's temperature by calling up temperature readouts on the P3
 System Controller. If any of the product temperature readouts exceed the levels given in Table 1 on page
 5, provide fan assistance to give active cooling to the installation.
- Do not operate the VC-Strip if the ambient temperature (Ta) exceeds 45° C (113° F).
- Do not modify the VC-Strip in any way not described in this manual or install other than genuine Martin[™] parts. Use only accessories approved by Martin[™].



PROTECTION FROM INJURY

- When installing the VC-Strip above ground level, ensure that the installation hardware and supporting structure can hold at least 10 times the weight of all the devices they support.
- In an overhead installation or where the VC-Strip may cause injury if it falls:
- block access below the work area and work from a stable platform whenever installing, servicing or moving the VC-Strip, and
- as soon as work is completed, check that all hardware and components are securely in place and fastened to supporting structures.

Introduction

Thank you for selecting a product from the Martin VC-Strip[™] family. These compact LED-based display modules are designed to integrate into a Martin P3[™] video system to display video from a variety of sources, and they can also be controlled using DMX. Use of an RDM-compliant DMX controller such as the Martin M1[™] or M-PC[™] allows two-way communication and remote management of VC-Strip modules from the controller.

The VC-Strip combines flexibility and simplicity with high-quality video display capabilities. Used with or without a front diffuser, multiple VC-Strips can be combined in ways that give exceptional creative flexibility. A hybrid power and data cabling system allows VC-Strips to be daisy-chained for easy setup and minimal cabling.

The VC-Strip is an array of LEDs arranged in a line on a rigid module. It offers the following features:

- Various pixel pitch (center-to-center LED distance) options: 15, 25, 30 or 60 mm
- · Various pixel options: 4, 8, 16 or 32 pixels per module
- · Longer modules can be cut to custom lengths on site by user
- · Individually controllable pixels
- High-quality 16-bit per color image processing technology
- · Pixel-level brightness and color calibration for optimal image quality
- P3 and DMX control with automatic protocol detection
- Intuitive pixel mapping and addressing using a Martin P3[™] system controller
- · Single hybrid cable for power and data input and throughput
- External power and data processor (Martin P3 PowerPort 1500™) and simple cabling system

All models are available with RGB color. VC-Strip 8x1 25 and VC-Strip 16x1 25 models are also available in warm white (WW), medium white (MW) and cool white (CW) versions.

For dimensions drawings of all the products in the VC-Strip family, please see the VC-Strip Product Support pages on the Martin™ website at www.martin.com

Martin™ user documentation is supplied with products and available for download from www.martin.com, where you can also find the latest specifications, firmware updates and support information for all Martin™ products.

Martin™ welcomes input from users. Comments or suggestions regarding this manual can be e-mailed to service@martin.dk or posted to: Technical Documentation, Martin Professional A/S, Olof Palmes Allé 18, DK-8200 Aarhus N, Denmark.

Unpacking

The VC-Strip is supplied in anti-static packaging. Leave products in their packaging until you are ready to install them.

Precautions to avoid damage

Important! To get the best out of the VC-Strip and avoid causing damage that is not covered by the product warranty, read the following information carefully. Make sure that everyone who is involved in working on or using the VC-Strip has read and understood this information.

- The VC-Strip™ is not designed to allow hot-plugging. Shut down power and data before connecting or disconnecting modules, or you are very likely to cause damage that is not covered by the product warranty.
- PCB tracks can be damaged if metal screws are tightened directly onto VC-Strip modules. Protect PCBs
 from damage by adding non-conductive protective material such as plastic PCB washers or spacers
 under screw heads to prevent any abrasion of PCBs. Mechanical damage to PCB tracks caused by
 fastening hardware is not covered by the product warranty.
- Excessive dirt buildup causes overheating and a risk of short-circuits and may damage the product.
 Damage caused by inadequate cleaning is not covered by the product warranty.

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Operating temperature precautions

- Exposing the VC-Strip to direct sunlight or operating it in an ambient temperature that exceeds the specified maximum may reduce the lifetime of the product.
- Monitor the VC-Strip's temperature by calling up temperature readouts on the P3 System Controller. If any of the product temperature readouts exceed the temperatures given in Table 4, provide fan assistance to give active cooling to the installation.

VC-Strip module	Fan assistance required from:
VC-Strip 15	68° C
VC-Strip 25	60° C
VC-Strip 30	59° C
VC-Strip 60	66° C

Table 4: Maximum temperature levels before fan assistance is required

Note that, if the temperature of a VC-Strip module rises to 10° C above the level given in Table 4, a
thermal safety cutout shuts down the module. The module will not function normally again until the
temperature has fallen to a safe level.

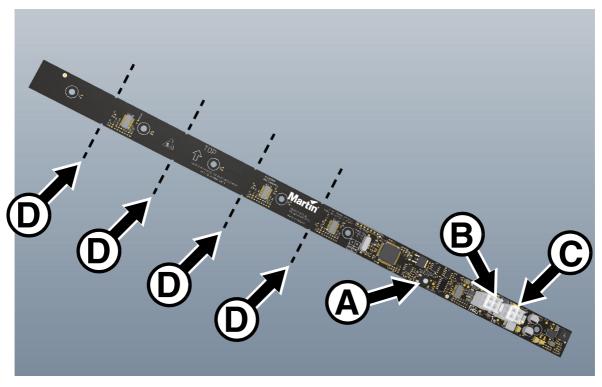
Electrostatic discharge precautions



VC-Strip components are sensitive to ESD (electrostatic discharge) and can be damaged if you do not take the following precautions:

- Attach an ESD wrist strap to your wrist and connect its ground (earth) lead to a known ground (earth) before handling the VC-Strip.
- Hold the VC-Strip by its edges only. Do not touch any part of a VC-Strip module apart from the connectors and the control button. Do not touch connector pins.
- Place the VC-Strip on grounded (earthed) surfaces only.
- Store the VC-Strip only in its ESD shielding bag and do not remove it until you are ready to install it. Place it in an ESD shielding bag immediately if you remove it from an installation.
- Protect the VC-Strip from ESD in the installation location. Differences in electrical potential between the VC-Strip and any object it comes into contact with may cause damage that is not covered by the product warranty.

VC-Strip™ overview



VC-Strip 16x1 25 illustrated

- A Control button
- B 48 VDC power + data throughput (THRU)
- C 48 VDC power + data input (IN)
- D Module cutting points (long variants only)

Figure 1: Overview

Figure 1 shows the VC-Strip 16x1 25. Other models are similar. Note that some products have right-angled connectors B and C.

Physical installation



Warning! Read "Safety information" on page 4 and "Precautions to avoid damage" on page 7 on before installing the VC-Strip.

The VC-Strip can be installed in any orientation. The most evenly matched optical characteristics when viewing an installation from the side at an angle are obtained when all VC-Strip modules are oriented horizontally, but unevenness will hardly be noticeable in vertical strips, and then only when viewed from the side.

The backs of modules are marked with arrows and the word **TOP**. Install all modules with the arrows facing the same way. When installing horizontally, install all modules with the arrows pointing upwards and the **TOP** marking at the upper edge of the modules.

Allow free airflow around the product and at least 10 mm (0.4 in.) of clearance around the LEDs on the front surface. Check that the product will not be exposed to direct sunlight or excessive heat.

To maintain pixel spacing across multiple VC-Strip modules, install them with a 1 mm (0.04 in.) gap between ends of modules.



Figure 2: Mounting holes

See Figure 2. The VC-Strip can be fastened to a surface or structure by installing pillar bolts using any two of the mounting holes (arrowed). Add non-conductive washers on both sides of the VC-Strip.

Shortening modules



Warning! Even if you shorten one or more of the VC-Strip modules in an interconnected chain, do not exceed the maximum permitted number of full-length modules per chain given in "Protection from electric shock" starting on page 4.

It is possible to shorten a VC-Strip long variant module by cutting it at one of the possible cutting points (see **D** in Figure 1 on page 9). Modules shortened in this way will communicate their length when they identify themselves to a P3 or RDM controller.

Short variant VC-Strip modules have no cutting points like the ones at **D** in Figure 1 on page 9 and cannot be shortened further.

To cut a VC-Strip module:

- 1. Ensure that the VC-Strip is isolated from power and data.
- 2. Read "Electrostatic discharge precautions" on page 8. Do not damage components or printed circuits.

3. See Figure 3. Using either a pair of tin snips or a small rotary cutting tool (Dremel or similar) with a fine-tooth cutting wheel, cut the VC-Strip at a cutting point marked with a dotted line.

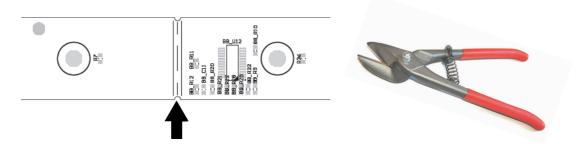


Figure 3: Cutting a VC-Strip

- 4. The end of the VC-Strip without connectors that you have cut off cannot be re-used. Send it for electronic waste recycling.
- 5. Clean up the cut edge with fine-grit sandpaper.

System installation



Warning! Read "Safety information" on page 4 and "Precautions to avoid damage" on page 7 carefully before installing a VC-Strip™ system.

Warning! Connect the VC-Strip™ only to the devices and using only the Martin™ cables specified in this manual.

Warning! Do not exceed the maximum numbers of devices that can be connected in chains and maximum cable lengths specified in "Protection from electric shock" starting on page 4 and in the manuals of the other devices in the system.

Important! The VC-Strip is not designed to allow hot-plugging. Shut down power and data before connecting or disconnecting modules.

The VC-Strip is designed to display either Martin P3[™] video or DMX-controlled lighting effects. It automatically recognizes and responds to either a Martin P3[™] or a DMX data signal. The next sections explain how to create a VC-Strip installation to display P3 video data or DMX-controlled lighting effects.

Installing a P3 system

See Figure 5 for an overview of the elements and layout of a Martin P3™ video display system.

To install a system that displays P3 video on VC-Strips, see the overview in Figure 5 and follow these directions:

- 1. Make sure that no devices in the installation can be connected to AC mains power until all installation work is complete.
- 2. Read "Safety information" on page 4 and "Precautions to avoid damage" on page 7.
- 3. Connect VC-Strip modules together in chains using Martin[™] hybrid PCB-to-PCB cables (see "VC-Strip to VC-Strip link cables" on page 31). Connect each cable from the THRU connector of one VC-Strip to the IN connector of the next VC-Strip to create the chain.
 - **Warning!** Do not exceed the maximum permitted number of modules per chain given in Table 1 on page 5.
- 4. Connect each chain of VC-Strips to one of the four 4-pin female XLR hybrid (48 VDC power + P3 data) outputs on a P3 PowerPort 1500™ using a Martin™ hybrid 4-pin male XLR to PCB adapter cable, P/N 11840158 (see Figure 4).

Hybrid-to-PCB adapter cable, P/N 11840158

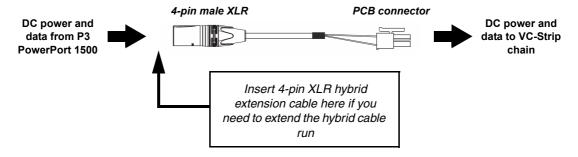
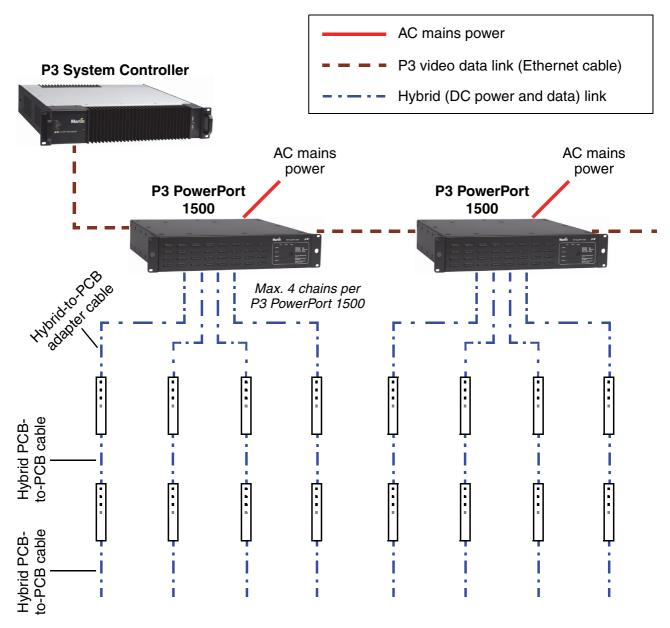


Figure 4: Power and P3 video data input

- 5. If necessary, extend the cable by connecting a Martin[™] 4-pin XLR hybrid extension cable to the Hybrid-to-PCB adapter cable so that you can run the hybrid link to the P3 PowerPort 1500. Suitable extension cables are available from Martin[™] in various lengths. See "Extension cables" on page 32.
- 6. Create a P3 video data link from a Martin P3[™] system controller such as the P3-100[™], P3-200[™] or P3 PC[™] to the P3 PowerPort 1500[™] (see the products' user manuals for details).
- 7. If required, continue the P3 video data link in a daisy-chain by connecting the P3 data throughput of one P3 PowerPort 1500™ to the P3 data input of the next, as described in the P3 PowerPort 1500™ user manual. You can connect up to fifty P3 PowerPort 1500s in a P3 data daisy-chain like this. If you need to

- connect more than fifty, use an unmanaged Ethernet switch to split the P3 data link into branches, each containing less than fifty P3 PowerPort 1500s.
- 8. Connect the P3 PowerPort 1500™ to AC mains power at 100 240 V, 50/60 Hz as described in its user manual.
- 9. connect the P3 system controller to AC mains power and power the controller on.

You can now configure the system at the P3 controller. See"System setup" on page 20.



See Table 1 on page 5 for maximum permitted number of modules in chain

Figure 5: P3 system layout

Installing a DMX-controlled system

In a DMX-controlled system, an RDM-compliant DMX lighting controller sends a DMX control data signal over a DMX link to the installation, and then over the hybrid link to the VC-Strips.

The DMX link requires DMX cable. It can be maximum 300 m (1000 ft.) in length and must run in one single daisy-chain, but it can be extended or split into branches using an RDM-compliant amplifier/splitter such as the Martin RDM 5.5 Splitter™ (P/N 90758150). Alternatively, you can run the DMX signal from the controller over Ethernet cable using Art-Net protocol and convert it to a DMX-compliant signal with a Martin Ether2DMX8™ DMX router (P/N 90758130).

If you would like assistance with creating a DMX link, your Martin™ supplier will be glad to advise.

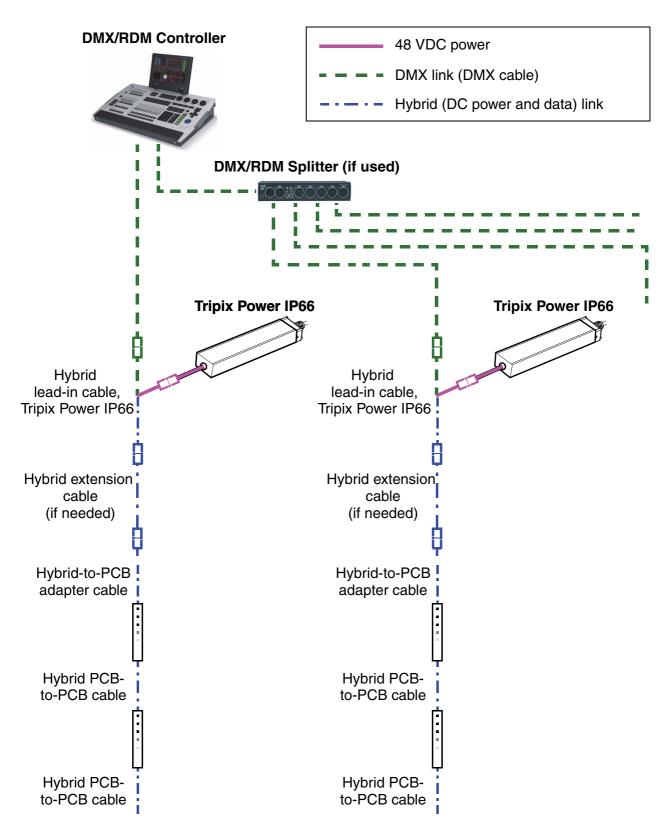
The number of VC-Strips that you can control on one DMX link is limited by the number of DMX channels the VC-Strips will use and the 512 DMX channels available in one DMX universe at the DMX controller. Each time you have used 512 channels, you must create a new DMX link that is connected to a new DMX universe on the controller. Note that this limit applies to the *DMX link*. The maximum safety limits that apply to the *hybrid link* (see "Safety information" on page 4) take priority and must be respected in all cases.

DC Power options in DMX installations

A DMX-controlled VC-Strip installation can be supplied with DC power from the Martin Tripix Power IP66™ external PSU or from a generic external PSU (the Mean Well SP-480 48, for example).

The hardware and cables required are slightly different depending on which type of PSU you use to supply the installation with DC power. The two different types of installation are covered in the next two sections:

- If you are using a Martin Tripix Power IP66™ PSU, see "Installing a DMX system using the Tripix Power IP66™" on page 15.
- If you are using a generic 48 VDC PSU, see "Installing a DMX system using a generic external 48 VDC PSU" on page 17.



See Table 2 on page 5 for maximum permitted number of modules in chain

Figure 6: DMX-controlled system using the Tripix Power IP66 PSU

To create a DMX-controlled installation that draws DC power from the Martin Tripix Power IP66:

- 1. See Figure 6 on page 15 for an overview of this type of installation
- 2. Make sure that no devices in the installation can be connected to AC mains power until all installation work is complete.
- 3. Read "Safety information" on page 4 and "Precautions to avoid damage" on page 7.
- 4. Connect VC-Strips together in daisy-chains using Martin[™] hybrid PCB-to-PCB cables (see "VC-Strip to VC-Strip link cables" on page 31). Connect each cable from the THRU connector on one VC-Strip to the IN connector on the next VC-Strip.
 - **Warning!** Do not exceed the maximum permitted number of modules per chain given in Table 2 on page 5.
- See Figure 7. Connect a Martin[™] hybrid-to-PCB adapter cable (P/N 11840158) to the first VC-Strip of each chain.
- 6. If necessary, you can extend the hybrid link by connecting a Martin[™] 4-pin XLR hybrid extension cable to the Hybrid-to-PCB adapter cable. Suitable extension cables are available from Martin[™] in various lengths. See "Extension cables" on page 32.
- 7. See Figure 7. Connect the DC power input connector of a Martin[™] Tripix Power IP66 hybrid lead-in cable (P/N 11840194) to the DC output on the Tripix Power IP66.

Hybrid lead-in cable, Tripix Power IP66, P/N 11840194

Hybrid-to-PCB adapter cable, P/N 11840158

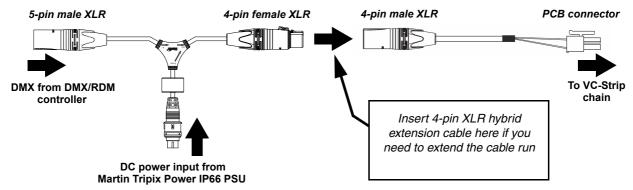
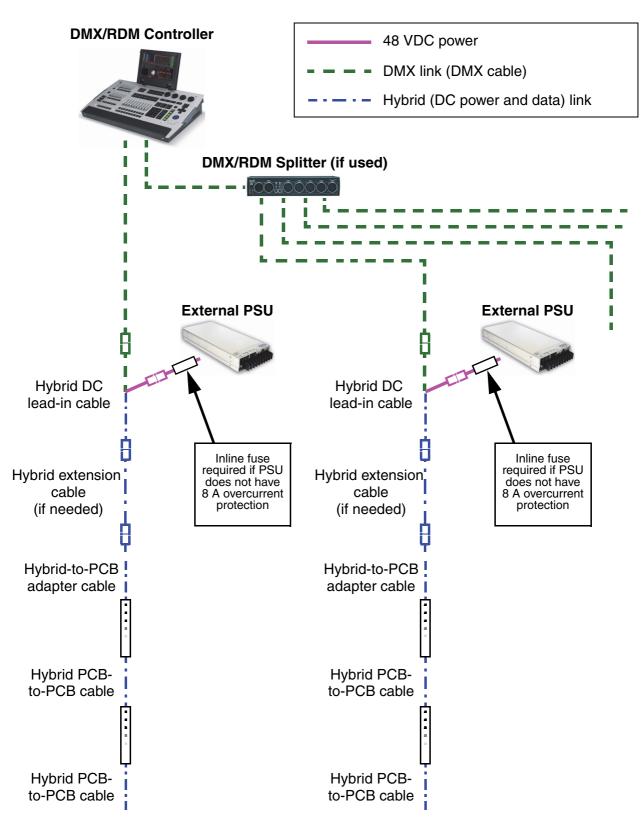


Figure 7: Tripix Power IP66 and DMX connections to a VC-Strip chain

- 8. Connect the 4-pin female XLR connector on the hybrid lead-in cable to the 4-pin male connector on the hybrid-to-PCB adapter cable (or on the hybrid extension cable, if you have extended the hybrid link).
- 9. Connect the 5-pin male XLR connector on the hybrid lead-in cable to a DMX link that carries a DMX signal from an RDM-compliant DMX controller such as the Martin M1[™] or M-PC[™].
- 10. Install a mains power cable on the Tripix Power IP66 and connect it to AC mains power.
- 11. Apply AC mains power to the DMX controller.

You can now configure the system. See "System setup" on page 20.



See Table 3 on page 6 for maximum permitted number of modules in chain. Do not exceed PSU output rating.

Figure 8: DMX-controlled system using a generic PSU

To create a DMX-controlled installation that draws DC power from a generic PSU:

- 1. See Figure 8 on page 17 for an overview of this type of installation.
- 2. Make sure that no devices in the installation can be connected to AC mains power until all installation work is complete.
- 3. Read "Safety information" starting on page 4 and "Precautions to avoid damage" on page 7.
- Connect VC-Strips together in chains using Martin[™] hybrid PCB-to-PCB cables (see "VC-Strip to VC-Strip link cables" on page 31). Connect each cable from the THRU connector on one VC-Strip to the IN connector on the next VC-Strip.

Warning! Check the PSU's DC output power rating in watts and the power consumption figures in watts for VC-Strip modules given in Table 3 on page 6. Do not create a chain of VC-Strip modules that will exceed the power rating of the DC output on the PSU. Even if the PSU's DC output power rating would be high enough, do not create a chain of VC-Strips that contains more than the maximum permitted number per chain given in Table 3 on page 6.

- 5. See Figure 9. Connect a Martin[™] hybrid-to-PCB adapter cable (P/N 11840158) to the first VC-Strip of each chain.
- 6. If necessary, you can extend the hybrid link cable run by connecting a Martin[™] 4-pin XLR hybrid extension cable to the Hybrid-to-PCB adapter cable. Suitable extension cables are available from Martin[™] in various lengths. See "Extension cables" on page 32.
- 7. See Figure 9. If the PSU does not have constant overcurrent protection that will limit current to 8 A on the DC output used, install an inline fuseholder with a 7.5 A or 8 A fuse on the white (+ve) power wire of a Martin™ hybrid lead-in cable (P/N 11840171). A 30 amp automotive-type inline fuseholder with a 7.5 A blade fuse can be used. Connect the power wires on the lead-in cable to a DC output on the PSU. Connect the white wire to positive (+ve) and the black wire to negative (-ve).

Hybrid DC lead-in cable, P/N 11840171

Hybrid-to-PCB adapter cable, P/N 11840158

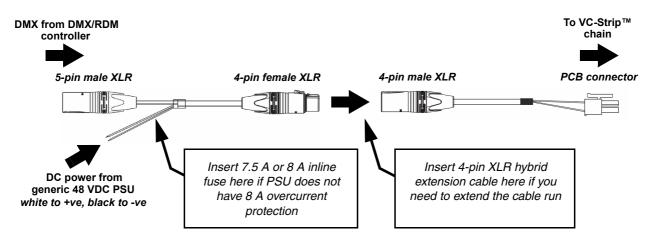


Figure 9: Generic PSU and DMX connections to a VC-Strip chain

- 8. Connect the 4-pin female XLR connector on the hybrid lead-in cable to the 4-pin male connector on the hybrid-to-PCB adapter cable (or on the hybrid extension cable, if you have extended the hybrid link).
- Connect the 5-pin male XLR connector on the hybrid lead-in cable to a DMX link that carries a DMX signal from an RDM-compliant DMX controller such as the Martin M1™ or M-PC™.
- 10. Apply AC mains power to the external PSU.
- 11. Apply AC mains power to the DMX controller.

You can now configure the system. See "System setup" on page 20.

Connecting additional devices to a VC-Strip chain

Drawing off combined data and DC power from the end of a chain

If you want to continue the hybrid link to carry 48 VDC power and a P3 video or DMX signal from the end of a VC-Strip chain to other devices, connect a Martin Hybrid Adapter Cable, PCB to 4-pin female XLR, P/N 11840159, to the **OUT** connector of the last module in the chain.



Warning! If you draw off DC power from the end of a VC-Strip chain and connect additional devices, respect the maximum safe power rating of the power source that you use to supply all the devices with DC power. Calculate the power consumption of the VC-Strip chain using the figures in Table 3 on page 6, then add the power consumption of each device that you add to the end of the chain. As soon as you reach 360~W- or the maximum power rating of the device that you use to supply the chain with DC power if this rating is lower than 360~W- you must stop adding devices and create a new chain that draws DC power from a new source.

Drawing off a DMX signal from the end of a chain

If you want to continue the DMX link to carry a DMX signal from the end of a VC-Strip chain to other devices, connect a Martin Hybrid Adapter Cable, PCB to 4-pin female XLR, P/N 11840159, to the **OUT** connector of the last module in the chain.

Then, to connect to a standard DMX link that uses 5-pin XLR connectors, add a Martin Data Out/Thru Adapter Cable, 4-pin male XLR to 5-pin female XLR, P/N 11840203. This adapter cable relays the DMX data signal only, it does not collect DC power at its 4-pin male XLR connector.

System setup



Warning! Read "Safety information" on page 4 and "Precautions to avoid damage" on page 7 before applying power to the VC-Strip.

Setting up for P3 display

A Martin P3™ system allows video to be displayed on an installation that consists of or includes VC-Strip devices. When a P3 controller is connected to the data link and the installation is powered on, you can set up all the devices on the link from the P3 controller. See the P3 controller user manual for details.

Setting up for DMX control

A DMX system gives 0 - 100% variable intensity control. Varying the intensity of red, blue and green LEDs in RGB products gives RGB color mixing.

You can set up and control a VC-Strip installation over the data link using an RDM-compatible DMX controller such as the Martin M-PC[™] Windows application (running on a PC connected to a USB/DMX interface such as the Martin USB Duo[™] DMX Interface) or the Martin M1[™] DMX/RDM control console. The interface on the Martin M1[™] monitor screen is basically identical to the Martin M-PC[™] interface.

DMX control channels

DMX controllers send control data to devices over DMX control channels in DMX universes. One DMX universe has 512 channels available.

A VC-Strip installation can be controlled as individual pixels or as groups of pixels. One group can consist of an entire installation, any number of modules or a single module.

- If VC-Strips are set up for grouped control, all the LEDs in each group are controlled using the same DMX channels – three channels for RGB products and one channel for WW, MW and CW products.
- If VC-Strips are set up for individual pixel control, each LED on a module is controlled as an individual
 pixel using its own DMX channels three channels per pixel for RGB products and one channel per pixel
 for WW, MW and CW products.

DMV shannels nor module. DMV shannels nor module

Type of VC-Strip module	DMX channels per module, individual module control	DMX channels per module, individual pixel control
VC-Strip 32x1 15 RGB	3	96
VC-Strip 16x1 15 RGB	3	48
VC-Strip 16x1 25 RGB	3	48
VC-Strip 16x1 25 CW	1	16
VC-Strip 16x1 25 MW	1	16
VC-Strip 16x1 25 WW	1	16
VC-Strip 8x1 25 RGB	3	24
VC-Strip 8x1 25 CW	1	8
VC-Strip 8x1 25 MW	1	8
VC-Strip 8x1 25 WW	1	8
VC-Strip 16x1 30 RGB	3	48
VC-Strip 8x1 30 RGB	3	24

Table 5: Number of DMX channels required per VC-Strip™ module

Type of VC-Strip module	DMX channels per module, individual module control	DMX channels per module, individual pixel control
VC-Strip 8x1 60 RGB	3	24
VC-Strip 4x1 60 RGB	3	12

Table 5: Number of DMX channels required per VC-Strip™ module

To give an example, an installation that contains fifty VC-Strip 16x1 RGB modules will require:

- 3 DMX channels if the entire installation is controlled as one group,
- 3 channels x 10 groups = 30 DMX channels if the installation is divided into ten groups that are controlled individually,
- 3 channels x 50 modules = 150 DMX channels if each of the fifty modules is controlled as an individual group, and
- 3 channels x 50 modules x 16 pixels = 2400 DMX channels if each of the 800 pixels is controlled individually (in this example, five DMX universes will be required because one DMX universe has up to 512 channels).

Individual and grouped control can be mixed freely in an installation. For example, some VC-Strip modules can be set up for individual pixel control, other modules can be set up for individual module control, and other modules can be set up in groups to give grouped control of multiple modules.

DMX addresses

To prepare an installation for DMX control, you set it up using an RDM-compliant DMX controller so that each individually controlled pixel or group of pixels will receive instructions from the controller on its own DMX channels. The DMX address (also known as the control address or start channel) is the first of these channels. If a pixel or group uses more than one channel, it uses the DMX address channel and the channels immediately above it. For example, one VC-Strip RGB module controlled as one group and set to DMX address 1 will use DMX channels 1 - 3. Channel 4 will be available for use as a DMX address for the next device.

If a VC-Strip module is set to individual pixel control (see "Setting modules to grouped or pixel control modes" on page 22), LEDs are given DMX addresses using a 'left-to-right' numbering system. For example, if one VC-Strip RGB module is set to pixel control and set to DMX address 1, each of the 16 LEDs will use 3 channels, and the module will use DMX channels 1 - 48 (Channel 1 - 3 for the first pixel, channels 4 - 6 for the next pixel etc. until it reaches channels 46 - 48 for the last pixel. Channel 49 will be available for use as a DMX address for the next device.

If a VC-Strip module is set to module control (see "Setting modules to grouped or pixel control modes" on page 22), it can be controlled as an individual module or assigned to a group of modules. To create a group of modules, give them the same DMX address. All modules that have the same DMX address will receive the same instructions and behave identically.

Setting up via RDM using Martin M-PC™

Using an RDM-compliant DMX controller such as Martin M-PC™, you can communicate with the VC-Strip modules on the DMX data link via RDM. You can:

- · Retrieve data
- Set the DMX addresses of the groups or pixels on the link
- · Apply various setup options.

To use Martin M-PC, connect a PC running this application to the data link using the Martin USB Duo™ USB/DMX interface box.

See Figure 10. Open the **RDM View** window in M-PC and click on the **Scan** button (arrowed bottom left) to display a list of the RDM-compliant devices on the DMX/RDM data link (in this example, ten VC-Strip RGB modules are present on the link, and all ten modules are set to DMX address 1).

System setup 21

Identifying VC-Strips in the installation

To see which VC-Strip module in this list corresponds to which VC-Strip module in the installation, click on each VC-Strip module in the list once to select it, then click on the **Identify** button at the bottom of the screen. The VC-Strip in the installation that corresponds to the selected VC-Strip in the list will flash a signal so that you can identify it.



Figure 10: M-PC RDM View

Setting DMX Addresses

See Figure 10. To set DMX addresses using the M-PC application, open the **RDM View** window and click on **Scan** to display a list of the elements in the installation. Click in the **Address** box for each VC-Strip module and enter the desired DMX address, then press the **Enter** key to store the DMX address for that module. Remember that modules with identical addresses will receive the same instructions.

When working with more than one DMX universe, click in the **Universe** box for each VC-Strip module, enter the desired DMX universe number, then press the **Enter** key to store the DMX universe for that module.

Setting modules to grouped or pixel control modes

In pixel mode, pixel mode, each pixel on a module is controlled individually. In module mode, All the pixels on one module are controlled together as one group.

To set a VC-Strip module to pixel or module mode using M-PC, open the **RDM View** window and click on **Scan** to display a list of the elements in the installation. Select the module in the list, then click on the **Properties...** button at the bottom of the screen to open the Properties window for that module. Select from:

- Pixel mode (calibrated)
- Module mode (calibrated)

Setting up shortened modules

Any VC-Strip that has been shortened by cutting the module will communicate the number of LEDs it contains to the P3 or RDM controller so that its pixels are controlled correctly.

Using the VC-Strip



Warning! Read "Safety information" on page 4 and "Precautions to avoid damage" on page 7 on before applying power to the VC-Strip.

Do not use the VC-Strip if the ambient temperature exceeds 45° C (113° F) or falls below -20° C (-4° F). Monitor component temperatures with reference to Table 4 on page 8.

P3 display

The VC-Strip will display video from all common video sources that is processed and sent via a Martin P3™ controller. See the P3 controller documentation for details.

DMX control

The VC-Strip will display effects controlled by DMX. An RDM-compatible controller is strongly recommended, as RDM allows two-way communication. See the DMX/RDM controller documentation for details.

Local control button

The small control button on the back of the VC-Strip (see Figure 1 on page 9) lets you display the product's status, test the LEDs and reset the VC-Strip.

Status display

To display a VC-Strip module's status, press the control button once. LEDs 1 - 4 will give one of the indications listed in the tables below for a few seconds.

VC-Strip RGB

Color	Output	Indication	Action required
Blue	Constant	Busy (e.g. booting up or writing to flash memory).	Wait a moment for normal operation to be resumed.
Red	Constant	Error. The VC-Strip has encountered a fatal error and can not run.	Perform a factory reboot, followed by a firmware upload.
Red	Flashing	No control source detected.	Connect a P3 system controller or DMX source to the network.
Green	Flashing	Ready. VC-Strip connected to P3 controller but not receiving valid P3 data stream.	Set up the P3 controller to use the VC-Strip.
Green	Constant	Running normally in P3 mode.	None.
Cyan	Flashing	Ready. VC-Strip connected to DMX controller but not receiving valid DMX data stream.	Set up the DMX controller to use the VC-Strip.
Cyan	Constant	Running normally in DMX mode.	None.
<u>-</u>	·		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Table 6: RGB models status information

VC-Strip CW, MW and WW

LEDs	Output	Indication	Action required
LEDs 1 and 3	Constant	Busy (e.g. booting up or writing to flash memory).	Wait a moment for normal operation to be resumed.
LED 1	Constant	Error. The VC-Strip has encountered a fatal error and can not run.	Perform a factory reboot, followed by a firmware upload.
LED 1	Flashing	No control source detected.	Connect a P3 system controller or DMX source to the network.
LEDs 1 and 2	Flashing	Ready. VC-Strip connected to P3 controller but not receiving valid P3 data stream.	Set up the P3 controller to use the VC-Strip.
LEDs 1 and 2	Constant	Running normally in P3 mode.	None.
LEDs 1, 2 and 3	Flashing	Ready. VC-Strip connected to DMX controller but not receiving valid DMX data stream.	Set up the DMX controller to use the VC-Strip.
LEDs 1, 2 and 3	Constant	Running normally in DMX mode.	None.

Table 7: White models status information

Testing, rebooting and returning to defaults

The tables below list the functions of the control button on each VC-Strip module.

Test patterns are stored in onboard memory. This lets you test the LEDs without an external controller, but test patterns can also be called up on P3 system controllers and the P3 PowerPort 1500™.

VC-Strip RGB

Button action	Function
Short press	The first press displays status as shown in Table 6 or Table 7 for a few seconds.
	The next presses display the following test patterns on the LEDs (one short press scrolls to next pattern):
	- Calibrated white
	- Full red
	- Full green
	- Full blue
	- Scrolling gradient
	- Dimmed (20% uncalibrated white)
Press and hold until LEDs 1-4 light blue	Reboot the VC-Strip.
Press and hold until LEDs 1-4 light white	Return the VC-Strip to its default factory firmware.

Table 8: RGB models control button functions

VC-Strip CW, MW and WW

Button action	Function
Short press	The first press displays status as shown in Table 7 for a few seconds. The next presses display the following test patterns on the LEDs (one short press scrolls to next pattern): - Calibrated white 100% - White 33% - White 33% - Scrolling gradient
Press and hold until LEDs 1, and 3 light	Reboot the VC-Strip.
Press and hold until LEDs 1, 2, 3 and 4 light	Return the VC-Strip to its default factory firmware.

Table 9: White models control button functions

Service and maintenance



Warning! Read "Safety information" on page 4 and "Precautions to avoid damage" on page 7 before carrying out service on the VC-Strip.

Warning! Isolate the installation from AC mains power before servicing.



Warning! Refer any service operation not described in this manual to a qualified service technician.

Important! Excessive dirt buildup causes overheating and a risk of short-circuits and may damage the product. Damage caused by inadequate cleaning is not covered by the product warranty.

Important! The VC-Strip is not designed to allow hot-plugging. Shut down power and data before connecting or disconnecting modules, or you will probably cause damage that is not covered by the product warranty.

The user will need to clean the VC-Strip periodically. All other service operations on the VC-Strip must be carried out by Martin Professional™ or its approved service agents.

Installation, on-site service and maintenance can be provided worldwide by the Martin Professional Global Service organization and its approved agents, giving owners access to Martin's expertise and product knowledge in a partnership that will ensure the highest level of performance throughout the product's lifetime. Please contact your Martin supplier for details.

Cleaning

Cleaning schedules vary greatly depending on the operating environment. It is therefore impossible to specify precise cleaning intervals for the VC-Strip. In extreme cases, the product may require cleaning after surprisingly few hours of operation. Environmental factors that may result in a need for frequent cleaning include:

- · Use of smoke or fog machines.
- High airflow rates (near air conditioning vents, for example).
- Presence of cigarette smoke.
- Airborne dust (from stage effects, building structures and fittings or the natural environment in outdoor locations, for example).

If one or more of these factors is present, inspect products soon after installing them to see whether cleaning is necessary. Check again at frequent intervals. This procedure will allow you to assess cleaning requirements in your particular situation. If in doubt, consult your Martin™ dealer about a suitable maintenance schedule.

Important!

Electrostatic discharges may cause damage. Do not touch the VC-Strip with fingers or a compressed air nozzle.

To clean the product, use low-pressure compressed air to gently remove dust and loose particles from the front and back of the product. Avoid touching the product's conductive surfaces and electronic components.

Installing new software

It may be necessary to upload new software (i.e. device firmware) to the VC-Strip if it appears to have a software-related fault or if you want to update to a newer software version.

Software for Martin™ products is available from the Martin website. The VC-Strip software can be installed from the P3 System Controller over the P3 data link. See the P3 System Controller user manual for software installation instructions.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Probable cause(s)	Remedy
Control is lost and pressing control button causes VC-Strip to show constant or flashing red status indication.	Error has occurred.	Check that system is correctly connected, set up and running. Hold control button pressed in until it turns blue, then release, to reboot VC-Strip. Restart P3 or DMX controller.
	Product has gone into thermal protection shutdown.	Check product temperature readouts on P3 system controller. Reduce ambient temperature by providing ventilation or fan cooling, for example.
Product seems completely dead.	No DC power to product.	Check 48 VDC power supply and cables
	Internal fault.	Disconnect from power. Do not attempt repairs yourself. Contact Martin™ Service or an authorized Martin™ service partner for assistance.
VC-Strip does not display as intended.	Bad 48 VDC power transmission.	Inspect connections and cables. Correct poor connections. Repair or replace damaged cables.
	Bad data transmission.	Inspect connections and cables. Correct poor connections. Repair or replace damaged cables.
	Incorrect mapping or addressing of products.	Check product address and controller settings.
	Product in installation is defective and is disturbing data transmission.	Substitute known good products one at a time until normal operation is regained. Have faulty product serviced by Martin™ Service.

Table 10: Troubleshooting

Specifications

	cal

VC-Strip 32x1 15
Pixel layout32x
Pixel pitch
Length
Width
Height
Weight
VC-Strip 16x1 15
Pixel layout
Pixel pitch
Length
Width
Height
Weight
VC-Strip 16x1 25
Pixel layout
Pixel pitch
Length
•
Width
Weight
VC-Strip 8x1 25
Pixel layout8x
Pixel pitch
Length
Width
Height
Weight
VC-Strip 16x1 30
Pixel layout16x
Pixel pitch
Length
Width
Height
Weight
VC-Strip 8x1 30
Pixel layout8x
Pixel pitch
Length
Width
Height
Weight
•
VC-Strip 8x1 60
Pixel layout
Pixel pitch
Length
Width
Height

VC-Strip 4x1 60 Pixel layout. .4x1 Pixel pitch. .60 mm (2.36 in.) Length .240 mm (9.45 in.)* Width .19 mm (0.75 in.) Height .15 mm (0.59 in.) Weight .32 g (1.1 oz.) Weight .53 g (1.9 oz.) *Including 1 mm (0.04 in.) end-to-end gap between modules
Control and programming
Control options
4x1 RGB models, pixel mode 12 4x1 RGB models, module mode 3 8x1 RGB models, pixel mode 24 8x1 RGB models, module mode 3 8x1 WW, MW and CW models, pixel mode 8 8x1 WW, MW and CW models, module mode 1 16x1 RGB models, pixel mode 48 16x1 RGB models, module mode 3 16x1 WW, MW and CW models, pixel mode 16 16x1 WW, MW and CW models, module mode 1 32x1 RGB models, pixel mode 96 32x1 RGB models, module mode 3
Control/user interface
Device status
Video processing
Brightness control Gamma correction and control Color temperature control Color gamut control Calibration processing Synchronization
Optics
Viewing angle. 120° x 120° Minimum LED lifetime 50 000 hours (to >70% luminous output)* *Obtained under manufacturer's test conditions
System Integration
P3 PowerPort 1500™
See www.martin.com for latest information.
Construction Base
RoHS compliant

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Installation

Installation	
Orientation	e
See earlier in this manual for maximum safe limits on number of VC-Strip modules that can be interconnected in one chain.	
Connections	
Power & data input 4-pin Molex male PCB connecto	r
Power & data thru	r
Hot-plugging not supported.	
Electrical	
Nominal input voltage)
VC-Strip 4x1 60 RGB	
Peak power consumption (at full intensity, full white)	
Peak current draw (at full intensity, full white)	
Typical power consumption (with typical video content)	
Typical current draw (with typical video content)	١
VC-Strip 8x1 25 RGB, WW, MW and CW Peak power consumption (at full intensity, full white)	V
Peak current draw (at full intensity, full white)	
Typical power consumption (with typical video content)	
Typical current draw (with typical video content)	
VC-Strip 8x1 30 RGB	
Peak power consumption (at full intensity, full white)	
Peak current draw (at full intensity, full white)	
Typical power consumption (with typical video content)	
Typical current draw (with typical video content)	٩
VC-Strip 8x1 60 RGB Peak power consumption (at full intensity, full white)	.,
Peak current draw (at full intensity, full white)	
Typical power consumption (with typical video content)	
Typical current draw (with typical video content)	
VC-Strip 16x1 15 RGB	
Peak power consumption (at full intensity, full white)	
Peak current draw (at full intensity, full white)	
Typical power consumption (with typical video content)	
Typical current draw (with typical video content)	٩
VC-Strip 16x1 25 RGB, WW, MW and CW Peak power consumption (at full intensity, full white)	.,
Peak current draw (at full intensity, full white)	
Typical power consumption (with typical video content)	
Typical current draw (with typical video content)	
VC-Strip 16x1 30 RGB	
Peak power consumption (at full intensity, full white)8 W	٧
Peak current draw (at full intensity, full white)	
Typical power consumption (with typical video content)	
Typical current draw (with typical video content)	1
VC-Strip 32x1 15 RGB Pools power consumption (at full intensity full white)	.,
Peak power consumption (at full intensity, full white)	
Typical power consumption (with typical video content)	
Typical current draw (with typical video content)	
Figures are per module and allow for cable in a chain with a total hybrid cable length of 50 m.	
Figures for typical video content are indicative only and will vary. Peak figures must always be used for	

safety calculations.

Thermal		
Cooling		n
Maximum ambient temperature	e (Ta max.)	F)
VC-Strip 4x1 60 RGB		
Peak heat dissipation (calculate	ed, at full intensity, full white)7 BTU/rated, with typical video content)	
VC-Strip 8x1 25 RGB, WW, M	W and CW	
	ed, at full intensity, full white)	
VC-Strip 8x1 30 RGB		
	ed, at full intensity, full white)	
VC-Strip 8x1 60 RGB		
	ed, at full intensity, full white)	
VC-Strip 16x1 15 RGB		
	ed, at full intensity, full white)	
VC-Strip 16x1 25 RGB, WW, N		
	ed, at full intensity, full white)	
VC-Strip 16x1 30 RGB		
	ed, at full intensity, full white)	
VC-Strip 32x1 15 RGB		
	ed, at full intensity, full white)	
Figures for typical video conter	nt are indicative only and will vary	
Approvals		
	EU safety	-1
	EU EMC EN 55103-1, EN 55103-2, EN 5502	
C Us	EN 55024, EN 61000-3-2, EN 61000-3-	
Intertek	US safety	
	US EMC FCC Part 15 Class	
	Canadian safety	
	Canadian EMCICES-003 Class	
	Australia/NZ	÷ I
Accessories		
VC-Grid/Strip 25 Lens Arrays,	Narrow, set of eight	0
	mes, set of ten	
VC-Grid 15/30/60 Mounting Fra	ames, set of ten	0
Input cables		
Hybrid Input Cable, 4-pin male Hybrid Input Adapter Cable, 5-	XLR to PCB connector, 0.25 m (0.8 ft.) P/N 1184015	8
Trybha input Adapter Cable, 5-	tails to 4-pin female XLR, 0.25 m (0.8 ft.) P/N 1184017	'1
Hybrid Input Adapter Cable, 5-		
VC-Strip to VC-Strip link cabl		
	3, 200 mm (7.9 in.)	0
	3, 400 mm (15.7 in.)	
-	3, 600 mm (23.6 in.)	
Hybrid Link Cable, PCB to PCF	3, 800 mm (31.5 in.)	33

 Hybrid Link Cable, PCB to PCB, 800 mm (31.5 in.).
 P/N 11840163

 Hybrid Link Cable, PCB to PCB, 1000 mm (39.4 in.).
 P/N 11840157

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Extension cables

Hybrid 4-pin XLR Extension Cable, 1 m (3.3 ft.)	P/N 11821016
Hybrid 4-pin XLR Extension Cable, 2.5 m (8.2 ft.)	P/N 11821017
Hybrid 4-pin XLR Extension Cable, 5 m (16.4 ft.)	P/N 11821018
Hybrid 4-pin XLR Extension Cable, 10 m (32.8 ft.)	P/N 11821019
Hybrid 4-pin XLR Extension Cable, 25 m (82.0 ft.)	P/N 11821015
Output / throughput cables	
Hybrid Output/Thru Cable, PCB to 4-pin female XLR, 0.25 m (0.8 ft.)	P/N 11840159
Data Output/Thru Cable, 4-pin male XLR to 5-pin female XLR, 0.25 m (0.8 ft.)	P/N 11840203
Hybrid cables carry both DC power and data over separate conductors	

Related Items

P3 PowerPort 1500™	P/N 90721040
P3-100™ System Controller	P/N 90721010
P3-200™ System Controller	P/N 90721020
P3-300™ System Controller	P/N 90721060
P3-PC™ System Controller	P/N 90721030
Tripix Power IP66™ Power Supply Unit	P/N 90760330

See www.martin.com for latest information on VC system and related products

Ordering information

VC-Strip™ 32x1 15 RGB
VC-Strip™ 16x1 15 RGB
VC-Strip™ 16x1 25 RGB
VC-Strip™ 16x1 25 WW
VC-Strip™ 16x1 25 MW
VC-Strip™ 16x1 25 CW
VC-Strip™ 8x1 25 RGB
VC-Strip™ 8x1 25 WW
VC-Strip™ 8x1 25 MW
VC-Strip™ 8x1 25 CW
VC-Strip™ 16x1 30 RGB
VC-Strip™ 8x1 30 RGB
VC-Strip™ 8x1 60 RGB
VC-Strip™ 4x1 60 RGB

Specifications subject to change without notice. For the latest product specifications, see www.martin.com

FCC Compliance

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations - Règlement sur le Matériel Brouilleur du Canada

This Class A digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations. Cet appareil numérique de la classe A respecte toutes les exigences du Règlement sur le Matériel Brouilleur du Canada.



Disposing of this product

Martin™ products are supplied in compliance with Directive 2002/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union on WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment), as amended by Directive 2003/108/EC, where applicable.

Help preserve the environment! Ensure that this product is recycled at the end of its life. Your supplier can give details of local arrangements for the disposal of Martin products.

